

SPECIAL SESSION---ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL

April 17, 2006

11:45 a.m.

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in special session on Monday, April 17, 2006, at 11:45 a.m., in the Roanoke City Council's Conference Room, Room 451, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris presiding, pursuant to the following communication from the Mayor under date of April 12, 2006:

"The Honorable Vice-Mayor and Members
of the Roanoke City Council
Roanoke, Virginia

Dear Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick and Members of Council:

Pursuant to Section 10, Meetings of council generally, of the Charter of the City of Roanoke, I am calling a Special Meeting of Council on Monday, April 17, 2006, at 11:45 a.m., in the City Council's Conference Room, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, for the purpose of interviewing applicants for three vacancies on the Roanoke City School Board.

The following interviews have been scheduled:

James P. Beatty - 11:45 a.m.
Jason E. Bingham - 12:10 p.m.
Caren D. Boisseau - 12:35 p.m.
Jay Foster - 1:00 p.m.
Alice P. Hincker - 1:25 p.m.

The remaining interviews will be held on Monday, May 1, 2006.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely,

s/ C. Nelson Harris
C. Nelson Harris
Mayor"

PRESENT: Council Members M. Rupert Cutler, Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, Brenda L. McDaniel and Mayor C. Nelson Harris -----5.

ABSENT: Council Members Brian J. Wishneff and Alfred T. Dowe, Jr. (arrived during closed session) -----2.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

COUNCIL-SCHOOLS: Council Member Cutler moved that Council convene in Closed Session to interview applicants for three vacancies on the Roanoke City School Board for terms commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2009. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel and Mayor Harris -----5.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Members Dowe and Wishneff were absent.)

At 11:47 a.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess for one Closed Session.

Council Member Dowe entered the meeting during the Closed Session.

At 1:47 p.m., the Council meeting reconvened in the Council's Conference Room, Room 451, with Mayor Harris presiding and all Members of the Council in attendance, except Council Member Wishneff.

COUNCIL: With respect to the Closed Session just concluded, Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that each Member of City Council certify to the best of his or her knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in any motion by which any Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by City Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.)

There being no further business, at 1:50 p.m., the Mayor declared the special meeting of Council adjourned.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:

Mary F. Parker
City Clerk

C. Nelson Harris
Mayor

REGULAR WEEKLY SESSION---ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL

April 17, 2006

2:00 p.m.

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in regular session on Monday, April 17, 2006, at 2:00 p.m., the regular meeting hour, in the Roanoke City Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris presiding, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Council, Section 2-15, Rules of Procedure, Rule 1, Regular Meetings, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, and pursuant to Resolution No. 37109-070505 adopted by the Council on Tuesday, July 5, 2005.

PRESENT: Council Members M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, Brenda L. McDaniel, Brian J. Wishneff (arrived late) and Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The invocation was delivered by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Harris.

PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

PROCLAMATIONS-HUMAN DEVELOPMENT-YOUTH: The Mayor presented a proclamation to Katie Hale, Child Protective Services Social Worker, declaring the month of April 2006 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

PROCLAMATIONS-FIRE DEPARTMENT: The Mayor advised that Fireman's Fund Insurance Company helps to support fire departments across the country and, to this end, created the Fireman's Fund Heritage Program, which has provided assistance to local and national communities for more than 140 years. He stated that Fireman's Fund Insurance Company has awarded the City of Roanoke Fire-EMS Department with a \$50,000.00 grant to provide funds for new physical training equipment in recognition of the importance of firefighter physical fitness and to ensure the optimal physical condition for firefighters to better serve and protect the citizens of Roanoke.

The Mayor presented a proclamation declaring April 17, 2006, as Fireman's Fund Insurance Company Day to Scott Smith, Community Relations Manager, and Chris Anderson, representing Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. He also presented Certificates of Appreciation to Mark Ruggles and Nick Deson, representing CalSurance; and to Robert W. Clark, President and Chief Executive Officer, Shenandoah Life Insurance Company, local underwriters.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor advised that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine by the Members of Council and would be enacted by one motion in the form, or forms, listed on the Consent Agenda, and if discussion was desired, the item would be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. He called specific attention to four requests for Closed Session.

MINUTES: Minutes of the regular meetings of Council held on Monday, March 6, 2006, and Monday, March 20, 2006, were before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with and that the minutes be approved as recorded. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was not present when the vote was recorded.)

COMMITTEES-CITY COUNCIL: A communication from Mayor C. Nelson Harris requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the Mayor to convene in Closed Meeting as abovedescribed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was not present when the vote was recorded.)

CITY COUNCIL: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss disposition of publicly-owned property, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager to convene in Closed Meeting as abovedescribed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was not present when the vote was recorded.)

CITY COUNCIL: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss disposition of publicly-owned property, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager to convene in Closed Meeting as abovedescribed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was not present when the vote was recorded.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING: A communication from the City Planning Commission transmitting the 2005 Annual Report, was before Council.

(For full text, see Annual Report on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that the 2005 Annual Report of the City Planning Commission be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was not present when the vote was recorded.)

COMMITTEES-ROANOKE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP: A communication from Sandra B. Kelly, Chair, advising of the resignation of John Griessmeyer as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates, was before Council.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that the resignation be accepted and that the communication be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was not present when the vote was recorded.)

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-HOTEL ROANOKE CONFERENCE CENTER:
A report of qualification of Darlene L. Burcham as a Commissioner of The Hotel Roanoke Conference Center Commission, for a term ending April 12, 2010, was before Council.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that the report of qualification be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was not present when the vote was recorded.)

CITY COUNCIL: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss disposition of publicly-owned property, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager to convene in Closed Meeting as abovedescribed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was not present when the vote was recorded.)

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

Council Member Wishneff entered the meeting.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

BUDGET-ROANOKE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP: A communication from Council Member Sherman P. Lea, the City's representative to the Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Committee (RVTV), advising that on June 8, 1992, Council approved the Roanoke Regional Cable Television Agreement, which requires that the RVTV Operating Budget be approved by the governing bodies of the City of Roanoke, the County of Roanoke, and the Town of Vinton; funding for the Operating Budget is shared by the three governments, based on the annual proportion of Cox subscribers located in each jurisdiction; and for the City of Roanoke in fiscal year 2005-2006, RVTV produced 12 Inside Roanoke shows, 12 Spotlight on City Schools shows, 25 City Council meetings (includes one special session), and 40 original video productions (27 for the City of Roanoke, five for Roanoke City Schools, and eight joint City-County productions).

It was further advised that the Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Committee approved the RVTV Operating Budget for fiscal year 2006-2007 at a meeting in March, 2006, in the amount of \$322,563.00, representing a 5.8 per cent increase from the current year's budget of \$304,713.00; RVTV staff is included on the payroll of Roanoke County and benefit system and will receive the same salary increase and insurance costs as other Roanoke County employees; and the proposed budget includes funding for closed captioning services for both City Council and Board of Supervisors meetings.

It was explained that Cox Communications paid a five per cent Franchise Fee to the local governments in 2005, which totaled \$1,918,355.00; the local governments informally agreed to allocate up to 20 per cent of the Franchise Fees collected to the RVTV Operating Budget, for the coming year, the amount will be \$383,671.00, and RVTV's requested budget of \$322,563.00 is less than that amount.

It was explained that Cox calculates the percentage of subscribers (December 31, 2005) in each locality as follows:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Subscribers</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Roanoke City	29,757	52%
Roanoke County	24,440	43%
Vinton	2,637	5%

It was noted that based on the above figures, each locality's contribution to the RVTV Operating Budget is as follows:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Contribution for FY 2006 -2007</u>
Roanoke City	\$167,733.00
Roanoke County	\$138,702.00
<u>Vinton</u>	<u>\$ 16,128.00</u>
Total	\$322,563.00

Council Member Lea recommended that Council approve the proposed RVTV budget for fiscal year 2006-2007, in the amount of \$322,563.00, with the City's contribution totaling \$167,733.00.

Elaine Simpson, Cable Access Director, RVTV, reviewed activities of RVTV-Channel 3 during the past year. She advised that the RVTV Message Board contains a component of crime line photographs of persons who have committed felonies and/or have outstanding warrants for their arrest, and noted that the program, which started approximately 12 - 18 months ago, has been successful and warrants have been issued for the arrest of 15 persons.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following resolution:

(#37358-041706) A RESOLUTION approving the recommendation of the Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Committee to approve the annual operating budget for Fiscal year 2006-2007 for the operation of the regional government and educational access station, Roanoke Valley Television (RVTV, Channel 3), and for the City to provide partial funding.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book 70, Page 246.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37358-041706. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS:

BUDGET-CITY EMPLOYEES: The City Manager advised that the City of Roanoke, as one of the largest employers in the Roanoke Valley, continues to capitalize on opportunities to engage the talents and contributions of the City's diverse community; during 2005, emphasis remained on increasing the diversity of the workforce and the City's capacity to be successful in a diverse, multicultural work environment; the City has built relationships and partnerships among City staff, EEO/civil rights organizations, colleges, universities, sororities, fraternities, and other groups interested in diversity; in addition, as a result of the Mayor's Multicultural Initiative, attention has been given to the City's growing multi-cultural community and the various ethnic groups represented therein; and efforts have been made to build relationships with the emerging cultural organizations in the community.

She further advised that during 2005, the City appointed women to the positions of Assistant Director of Technology and Acting Director of Human Resources; several key positions were made available, i.e.: Director of General Services, Assistant City Manager of Operations, and Director of Human Resources; vacancies present opportunities to encourage diverse candidates with a wide range of skills and experiences to participate in the employment process; pursuing a broader range of candidates further demonstrates the City's commitment to a more diverse workforce; emphasis continues to be placed on strengthening "diversity capacity" within the organization; the City organization has formalized a "diversity competency" which serves as a critical component of leadership performance; work continues with diversity consultants J. O. Rogers & Associates (JOR); next steps include engaging a cross-functional team of employees to further refine the City's diversity strategy and to incorporate diversity as one of the City's core values; and incorporation of diversity in the City's Core Values ensures that its diversity perspective as an organization is far-reaching and influences the way that the City thinks and does business.

It was explained that investment in the professional development and education of all employees remains paramount to ensuring that all members of the City's workforce will have the opportunity to improve their skills and to advance within the organization; the Employee Development Program (EDP) incorporates assessment, education planning and career counseling, accompanied by job shadowing, mentoring and coaching; during 2005, participation in EDP remained steady with 110 participants, of which 55% are women and 41% are people of color; leadership programs have also afforded all employees with opportunities to be prepared for advanced roles in leadership; both Foundations for Leadership Excellence (FLE) and the Leadership Development Initiative (LDI) support the work of the City to prepare a diverse leadership team; FLE is an introductory supervisory program and LDI is a program for middle managers/professionals; and during 2005, 44 attendees were women and 29 were people of color.

With regard to workforce demographics, it was noted that employment data for 2005 shows that 40 out of 210 new hires (19.0 per cent) and 18 out of 94 individuals promoted (19.1 per cent) were people of color; statistics reflect minimal variation from last year's figures of 21.5 per cent and 19.9 per cent, respectively; most favorable are the number of new hires who are female in the professionals category which increased substantially this year, or 74.5 per cent compared to 54.3 per cent in 2004; efforts to refine recruiting methods have supported progress in attracting diverse applicants; the City of Roanoke processed over 10,000 applications for employment during calendar year 2005; from a gender perspective, applications were split fairly evenly, females 50 per cent and males 48 per cent (two per cent had no gender/race information); the racial make up of all applications was 32 per cent minority; in a review of applications actually chosen for interview and referred for consideration, 37 per cent were male and 48 per cent were female (15 per cent had no gender/race information); referrals for consideration included 31 per cent minorities; and the conclusion from the abovereferenced statistics is that an effort is being made to include protected class applicants in the applicant pool for consideration by hiring authorities.

Relative to outreach recruitment, the City Manager reported that during 2005, recruitment efforts continued to explore and to develop greater avenues to seek out diverse applicants; the Annual Job Fair with the local chapter of the NAACP remains a mainstay of the City's effort to encourage a diverse population to pursue careers in municipal government; as a result of this year's

efforts with the NAACP Job Fair, several individuals interned with the City of Roanoke during the year; a number of visits were made to both career fairs and college classrooms to speak to diverse groups of people regarding career opportunities with the City of Roanoke; career fairs included Career Premier which was held in Roanoke and was attended by students from eight local colleges and universities; and City staff attended both the CIAA Career Fair and the Virginia Hi Tech Career Fair, which attracted students from over 12 historically black colleges and universities along the eastern seaboard.

It was further reported that the City participated as one of 70 employers in the This Valley Works Career Fair, which attracted 1,294 job seekers; recruitment efforts continue at the community college level to include southside Virginia; the Emerging Leaders Workshop, sponsored by Virginia Tech University, proved to be another venue where 60 students from over 15 black colleges learned about career opportunities in municipal government; the Human Resources Department maintained its partnership with the Police Department in recruiting efforts; in October 2005, both departments were represented at the Hispanic Heritage Festival sponsored by the Hispanic Community Resource Center; and John Jay College in New York City was visited and presentations were made to over 150 Criminal Justice students.

In closing, the City Manager advised that making the City of Roanoke a high quality, diverse employer requires remaining ever mindful of innovative recruitment opportunities and discovering new venues for reaching potential candidate populations; and becoming the "employer of choice" of a diverse, multi-cultural workforce remains the long term commitment of the City.

Daniel Hale, Executive Director, NAACP, Roanoke Branch, expressed appreciation for the efforts of the City Manager toward affirmative action in the City of Roanoke; however, the NAACP continues to have concerns with regard to certain City departments, specifically the percentage of new hires in the area of protective service, which consists of 82.4 per cent white males and only 5.9 per cent African-American males, 7.4 per cent white females and 2.9 African-American females. He stated that another area of concern relates to the disproportion of minorities in the Municipal Auditor's Department, which currently has one African-American female and no African-American managers; the Municipal Auditor is appointed by City Council, therefore, it is suggested that the NAACP work with the Council to create avenues leading to diversity in the Municipal Auditor's Office and in other departments appointed by the Council. He added that the NAACP is encouraged by efforts of the City Manager in the Office of Management and Budget which has one African-American male, and two African-American female professionals, and the NAACP looks forward to working with the City Manager and the City Council to address diversity in the total workforce of the City of Roanoke.

Council Member Cutler commended the City Manager's success with regard to diversifying the City's workforce. He emphasized that Council should continue to make appointments to the City's various boards and commissions keeping in mind the issue of diversity by age, gender, and race, etc.

Council Member Dowe advised that according to research performed by the City Clerk's Office, over the past four years, minority appointments to the City's boards and commissions have increased by 30-40 persons. He inquired as to what can be done to retain minorities in the City's workforce.

The City Manager advised that the question has numerous implications and suggested that a group of minority employees representing the various divisions of the City's workforce be convened to discuss the issue.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick advised that much progress has been made over the past 15 years. He commended the City Manager on her efforts to achieve diversity in the City's workforce, and stated that diversity is an issue that the City of Roanoke, as a major employer, should target for attention.

Council Member Lea advised that although some positive steps have been taken, he continues to be concerned about the low number of black males in the City's workforce. He stated that the process starts with Council and Council's appointments to boards and commissions to ensure that appointments are representative of the total community. He added that although much progress has been made to date, there is still much work to be done.

Council Member McDaniel commended the City Manager on her commitment to diversity in the City's workforce.

The Mayor reiterated the remarks of Council Members Dowe and Lea and advised that Council takes seriously the need for diversity in appointments to the City's boards and commissions. He commended the City Manager and City staff for their efforts and accomplishments during the past six years.

BUDGET: The City Manager called upon Sherman M. Stovall, Director, Office of Management and Budget, to present the City of Roanoke's Fiscal year 2006-2007 Recommended Budget.

The following is a summary of Mr. Stovall's presentation:

Objectives/Challenges

- **Maintain and, when possible, enhance services to address City Council's Strategic plan with an emphasis on**
 - Education
 - Public Safety
 - Public Health and Welfare
 - Economic Development
 - Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization
 - Recreation and Culture
 - Efficient and Effective Delivery of Services
- **Competitive employee compensation and benefits**
- **Continue to build debt capacity for planned capital projects**
- **Continue progress in budgeting for equipment replacement, capital building maintenance, street paving and technology**

FY 2006-07 Budget

- **Recommended budget is balanced**
- **General Fund Budget Totals \$239,607,000**
 - Increase of \$15,808,000, 7.1%



FY 2006-07 Budget

- **Recommend reduction of \$.02 in the Real Estate Tax Rate – Revenue Reduction of \$1,134,000**
- **Recommend increase of \$.27 in the Cigarette Tax – Additional revenue of \$1,520,000**
 - Use \$1,134,000 to offset real estate tax rate reduction and hold school division harmless
 - Use balance of \$386,000 to provide debt service for bond issuance of \$5 million for curb, gutter, sidewalks, and bridge renovation
 - Rate increase puts City of Roanoke at average for Virginia First Cities jurisdictions

FY 2006-07 Budget

- **Recommend an increase in the income and net worth caps for tax relief to the elderly and disabled.**
 - **Increase household income cap to \$34,000, based on the change in the consumer price index since the last revision in July 2001**
 - **Increase the net worth cap to \$125,000**

General Fund Revenue Summary

Revenue Increase	\$15,808,000
Local Revenue	\$6,896,000 +4.17
State Revenue	\$8,912,000 +15.28%

State revenue growth reflects the restatement of \$3,639,000 in telecommunication taxes as state revenue. Without this restatement, local revenue growth would be 9.01% and state revenue growth would be 6.41%

Local Revenues

	FY 2006-07 \$ Change	FY 2006-07 % Change
Total Local Revenues	\$6,896,000	4.17%
Real Estate Tax	\$4,880,000	7.58%
Personal Property Tax	\$1,632,000	10.89%
Sales Tax	\$1,325,000	6.92%
Cigarette Tax	\$1,620,000	90.00%
Business License	\$420,000	3.63%
Transient Room/Lodging Tax	\$277,000	12.31%
Utility Tax	(\$2,285,000)	(17.18%)
E-911 Surcharge	(\$800,000)	(50.00%)
Prepared Food Tax	\$428,000	4.16%
All Other Local Taxes and Revenues	(\$601,000)	(2.30%)

State Revenues

	FY 2006-07 \$ Change	FY 2006-07 % Change
Total Intergovernmental Revenues	\$8,912,000	15.28%
Non-Categorical and Other (Personal Property Tax Relief, Telecommunications Recordation, ABC/Wine, Rolling Stock, Rental Car)	\$3,090,000	31.28%
Shared Expenses (Constitutional Officers)	\$115,000	1.37%
Human/Social Services	\$3,725,000	16.71%
Categorical (Jail Per Diems, HB 599, Street Maint., Library, VJCCCA)	\$1,982,000	11.17%

User Fee Adjustments

Fee	Current	Proposed
EMS Basic Life Support Emergency	\$280	\$300
EMS Advanced Life Support Emergency	\$330	\$360
EMS Advanced Life Support Level 2 Emergency	\$475	\$550
Copy Charge (Per Page)	\$.05	
Black/White (8.5X11)	Per Page	\$.10
Color (8.5X11)	All Copies	\$.20
Black/White (8.5X14 & 8.5X17)		\$.15
Color (8.5X14 & 8.5X17)		\$.25
Black/White (11X17)		\$.20
Color (11X17)		\$.30
Library Best Seller Book Rental Program	N/A	\$2 per book per week

General Fund Expenditure Summary

Revenue Increase	\$15,808,000
Schools	\$3,402,998
Employee Compensation and Benefits	\$5,885,971
Debt Service and Cash Funded Capital	\$2,017,159
Maintain Existing Services	\$3,962,261
New Positions and Enhanced Services	\$1,727,900
Other Adjustments/Budget Reductions	(\$1,188,289)

Education

- **Increase of \$3,402,998, 6.2%**
 - **Based on 36.42% of adjusted local taxes**
 - **Transfer to School Fund - \$57,755,298**
 - **Debt service of \$4,218,455**
 - **Reflects investment in school capital projects**
 - **Funding provided is 26% of total General Fund budget and compares favorably to Virginia First Cities jurisdictions**

Employee Compensation and Benefits

- **Employee Compensation - \$3,534,228**
 - **Average pay raise of 4.0% of current salary**
 - **Salary survey indicates salaries are approximately 9% behind First Cities jurisdictions**
- **Benefits - \$2,351,743**
 - **Increase in contribution rate for the Employee Retirement System**
 - **Increase in the cost of health, dental, and life insurance**

Debt Service and Cash Funded Capital, Equipment Replacement and Maintenance

- **Additional Debt Capacity - \$1,450,000**
 - Support of Planned Capital Projects

- **Capital and Equipment Replacement – \$567,159**
 - Paving - \$217,159
 - Bridge Maintenance - \$350,000
 - Unable to grow funding in the operating budget for capital building maintenance, equipment replacement, and technology
 - Use one-time funds to provide additional funding for FY 2007

Public Safety

- **10 Police Officer Positions**
 - Respond to increased call volume
 - Enhance visibility
 - Support public safety initiatives

- **Additional vehicles for the Police Officer
Take Home Car Program**

- **Officer Next Door Program**

- **Fire-EMS Facilities Improvements**

Public Health and Welfare

- **Support for Social Service and Human Service Programs**
- **4 Social Worker Positions**
 - Address current caseload for child protective services
- **Support of Human Service/Community Agencies**

Economic Development

- **Promote efforts of Economic Development Division**
- **Brand Marketing and Advertising**
 - Expand marketing of the City of Roanoke brand
 - Raise Roanoke profile outside of the region
 - Attract new visitors and residents
- **Support the Market District Plan**
 - Begin concept design and architectural engineering
- **Promote Development of Riverside Centre and the Roanoke Center for Industry and Technology**
- **Promote and Support the Enterprise Zone**

Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization

- **Implement Housing Strategic Plan**
- **Continue the targeted application of federal housing (Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership) funds**
- **Enhanced Code Enforcement**
- **Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Position**
 - **Focus on full-time prosecution of code enforcement cases**

Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization

- **Streetscape projects in support of neighborhood plans and to improve the appearance and function of public streets**
- **Continue curb, gutter and sidewalk, improvements**
- **Enhanced leaf collection activity**

Recreation and Culture

- **Implement Phase I of the Comprehensive Library Plan**
 - 6 additional positions to enhance services to citizens
 - Enhancements to library collection, programs, and technology
- **Arts Festival and 125th Anniversary Celebration**
- **Part-Time Arts Coordinator Position**
 - Coordination and implementation of the Public Art Plan
- **Roanoke River Keepers**
 - Facilitate continuous cleanup and debris removal
- **Support of Cultural Agencies**

Efficient and Effective Service Delivery

- **Building Inspector Position**
 - Assist with increased volume of inspections
- **2 Maintenance Worker Positions (Facilities Management)**
 - Dedicated to maintenance at Roanoke Jail
 - Facilitate the reallocation of resources to focus on energy savings
- **Deputy Court Clerk Position – (Clerk of Circuit Court)**
 - Support courtroom operations
- **Maintain Prompt, Professional, and High Quality Customer service**

Miscellaneous

- **Inflationary Increases**
 - **Motor Fuels**
 - **Utilities**
 - **Miscellaneous Program Activities**
- **Expenditure Reductions**
 - **Across department and divisions boundaries**

Ted J. Edlich, III, Executive Director, Total Action Against Poverty, expressed concern with regard to reported decreases in funding to one of TAP's most vital initiatives on behalf of low income citizens; i.e.: This Works Education and Training Programs which are conducted at the Roanoke Higher Education Center. He called attention to a number of successful demonstration programs that were developed approximately ten years ago as a result of the work of a blue ribbon task force that reviewed TAP's role in education programs to provide educational opportunities to low income persons who either had dropped out of school, or had not received the level of education and training to support their advancement in life. He explained that some of the programs include Project Discovery, the Dropout Retrieval Program, the Center for Employment and Training, and the This Valley Works Program. He asked that Council review the proposed CDBG budget and restore funds to TAP's educational programs.

Hazel G. Clay, GED instructor and a teacher with 41 years of experience, spoke to the merits of TAP's Fast Track to GED program which is needed to help students achieve their GED diploma.

Owen Schultz, Manager of TAP's Planning Department, spoke in support of the This Valley Works Employment and Training Program which focuses efforts on the highest scores of impoverishment within the City of Roanoke: those persons who have dropped out of school, who do not have jobs, who have no skills and cannot find jobs. He stated that the total budget of the This Valley Works Program for fiscal year 2007 is approximately \$400,000.00; however, without funding assistance by the City, it will be difficult to meet the critical needs of this segment of Roanoke's citizens.

The City Manager clarified that TAP's This Valley Works (GED program) is not scheduled for a reduction of funds in fiscal year 2006-2007. She added that TAP's Forklift Operator and Warehouse Training Program is a new program that will be addressed as a part of Community Development Block Grant public hearings and review process.

Council Member Dowe inquired if funds are included in the City's fiscal year 2007 budget to implement the City Market Study; whereupon, the City Manager advised that approximately \$200,000.00 is included for concept design and architectural engineering for Phase I of the project. She added that it will be necessary for Council to prioritize the various elements of the study; Downtown Roanoke, Incorporated, will review the study and submit priority recommendations; a number of items in the consultants report should be the prerogative of the private sector and some items should be addressed by the City and funds have been set aside to begin the process.

Council Member Cutler spoke in support of the proposed budget; however, he expressed concern that the City is not adequately addressing storm water management/storm drainage needs and it will be necessary to enact a storm water fee in order to provide the kind of storm water management program that is needed by the City of Roanoke. He added that numerous priority items are not included in the proposed fiscal year 2006-2007 budget because there are limits on the City's income.

The Mayor spoke in support of the proposed budget as being both responsible and responsive to the needs of the citizens of the City of Roanoke. He stated that the proposed reduction in the real estate tax rate will be offset by an increase in the cigarette tax, therefore, the proposed 2006-2007 budget is fiscally neutral. He spoke in support expanding the perimeters for the City's tax relief program for senior and disabled persons, a four per cent pay increase for City employees, ten additional police officers, and four additional social worker positions for the Child Protective Services program. He stated that there will be more detailed discussion of the school funding formula which has been in effect for a number of years and did not take into account debt service as a part of the formula, yet the two largest capital projects in the history of the City

of Roanoke are school related; i.e.: the rebuilding of Patrick Henry and William Fleming High Schools. He advised that at a recent monthly meeting with the City Manager, the Superintendent of Schools and the Chair of the Roanoke City School Board, he proposed the formation of a study group to be composed of the City Manager, the Superintendent of Schools, City and School finance staff, a member of City Council and a member of the School Board to study the school funding formula and to submit recommendations to Council and to the School Board later in the year. He stated that he would formally present the proposal at a joint meeting of the Council and the School Board on Monday, May 1, 2006.

The Mayor advised that Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2006-2007 fiscal year budget on Thursday, April 27, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chamber, to be followed by budget study sessions on Thursday, May 4 at 8:30 a.m., in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, and on Friday, May 5 at 8:30 a.m., if necessary, and the City's Fiscal year 2006-2007 budget will be adopted at a meeting of the Council to be held on Thursday, May 11, 2006, at 2:00 p.m., in the City Council Chamber.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

BUDGET-FIRE DEPARTMENT-GRANTS: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company was founded in 1863 with a mission to donate a portion of profits to the widows and orphans of San Francisco firefighters; through the Fireman's Fund Heritage Program, Fireman's Fund Insurance Company is proud to support firefighters for safer communities; since the beginning of the program in 2004, millions of dollars have been awarded to fire departments and fire safety and burn prevention organizations across the country; and today, Fireman's Fund supports firefighters through the Fireman's Fund Heritage program, allowing departments to purchase much needed supplies and equipment.

It was further advised that the Fireman's Fund Heritage Program has selected the Roanoke Fire-EMS to be the recipient of a \$50,000.00 grant which requires no local match.

It was explained that funds will be used by the Fire/EMS department for physical fitness training equipment; equipment will be purchased to outfit Fire-EMS Stations 1, 7, 8 and the new Fire-EMS headquarters currently under construction; the abovereferenced stations were selected to receive new physical fitness training equipment because they either did not have the equipment, or current equipment is outdated or in disrepair; and equipment is needed to ensure that firefighters will continue the required ongoing physical fitness training programs.

The City Manager recommended that Council take the following actions:

- Accept the grant award of \$50,000.00; authorize the City Manager to execute the required grant agreement and any other related documents approved as to form by the City Attorney.
- Adopt a budget ordinance to establish a revenue estimate in the amount of \$50,000.00 and appropriate funding in the same amount to an expenditure account to be established by the Director of Finance in the Grant Fund.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37359-041706) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding from the Fireman's Fund Heritage Program, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 Grant Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 247.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37359-041706. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Dowe was not present when the vote was recorded.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following resolution:

(#37360-041706) A RESOLUTION accepting a Fireman's Fund Heritage Program grant to the City from The Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, and authorizing execution of any required documentation on behalf of the City.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book 70, Page 248.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37360-041706. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Dowe was not present when the vote was recorded.)

CITY CODE-TAXICABS AND FOR-HIRE VEHICLES: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that during the April 3, 2006 Council meeting, Yellow Cab Services of Roanoke, Inc. (petitioner), submitted a petition requesting an adjustment of rates for a fuel surcharge for taxicab service and for-hire automobiles in the City of Roanoke; rates are regulated by Council pursuant to Section 34-130 of the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended; and taxicab service in Roanoke is provided by Yellow Cab, Liberty Cab Company, Northwest Cab Company, and Quality Taxi Company.

It was further advised that according to the petitioner, since the last increase (spring, 2004), the cost per gallon of gasoline has risen significantly; and in addition, current indicators suggest gasoline prices will continue to dramatically increase which has compelled taxicab companies operating in the City of Roanoke to petition Council for the addition of a fuel surcharge that would assist drivers in partially offsetting escalating gasoline prices.

It was further advised that the proposed fuel surcharge of \$1.00 would be added to the current meter price charged for each trip and would be posted on the rate stickers displayed in each taxi; per the petitioner, the requested increase is in line with what other taxi companies in Virginia are charging, or are seeking to charge; and the companies have agreed to drop the proposed fuel surcharge if the average posted price of a gallon of gasoline drops below the price of \$2.00 per gallon for a period of six months.

It was noted that City staff conducted a survey among other Virginia municipalities to determine practices with respect to fuel surcharges; and 18 localities responded to the inquiry and provided the following information:

- Eleven have either received such requests tied directly to fuel increases, or with the cost of fuel being one of the major reasons for the request. Each locality has either allowed the companies to increase rates or to add a fuel surcharge. In most cases, the net effect was to add \$1.00 to the trip price.
- One locality, Fairfax County, agreed to a \$1.00 trip surcharge initially, but the amended ordinance will expire on April 30th, and no decision has been made on how to proceed once the ordinance expires.
- Williamsburg received a request for a temporary \$1.00 per trip fuel surcharge but did not act on the request.
- Five localities indicated that they have not received a formal request for a fuel surcharge.

It was advised that the proposed surcharge will be posted on the rate stickers displayed in each taxi, the average cost of gas will be tracked on a monthly basis by designated City staff using the average cost per gallon of regular unleaded self-serve gasoline in the City of Roanoke as published by the American Automobile Association (AAA) to monitor whether fuel prices drop below \$2.00 per gallon for a consecutive six month period; and if such occurs, designated City staff will notify the taxicab companies to drop the surcharge effective the first day of the following month and remove the surcharge from rate stickers displayed in each taxi.

The City Manager recommended that Council amend Section 34-130 of the City Code to authorize the imposition of a fuel surcharge of \$1.00 to be added to the current meter price charged for each trip, effective May 1, 2006, with the stipulation that the surcharge will remain in effect until such time as the average posted price of a gallon of gasoline drops below the price of \$2.00 per gallon for a consecutive six month period.

Council Member Dowe offered the following ordinance:

(#37361-041706) AN ORDINANCE amending subsection (8) of §34-130, Rate Schedule, Division IV, Fares, Article 111, Public Vehicles (Taxicabs and for Hire Vehicles), of the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, in order to adjust certain rates charged for services rendered by taxicabs and for-hire automobiles; and dispensing with the second reading by title paragraph of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 249.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37361-041706. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

BUDGET-HUMAN DEVELOPMENT-GRANTS: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that several months ago, the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board (WVWD Board) inquired about the possibility of making board staff (two full-time regular and two part-time temporary) City of Roanoke employees, as grant funded positions, with no local cost to the City; most Workforce Investment Board staff throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia are affiliated with municipal or local organizations in order to access employee benefits at a reasonable rate; while many of the municipalities or local organizations could serve as the host organization for this purpose, customarily board staff throughout the state are employees of the Board's fiscal agent; and the City of Roanoke serves as fiscal agent for the Board.

It was further advised that City and Board staff have developed a letter of agreement to allow Board employees to become City of Roanoke employees for the purpose of providing benefits at a reasonable cost to full time employees; the WVWD Board provides a needed service to the area, and it is in the best interest of the City to have well qualified staff performing the work; a competitive benefit package is a key component to attracting and retaining qualified personnel; and funding for employee benefits will be provided by existing grant funds, or the employees themselves, therefore, no local City funds are required.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to execute an agreement, in a form to be approved by the City Attorney, with the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board, to provide grant funded employee status (including benefits for full time employees) to staff of the WVWD Board.

Council Member Dowe offered the following resolution:

(#37362-041706) A RESOLUTION authorizing the execution of an agreement and related documents with the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board to provide grant funded employee status (including benefits for full time employees) to staff of the WVWD Board.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book 70, Page 250.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37362-041706. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

BUDGET-SCHOOLS: A report of the Roanoke City School Board requesting appropriation of \$4,100,000.00 in 2002 Capital Bond Funds from the Roanoke City Capital Fund to the Roanoke City Public Schools Capital Fund, to provide funds for construction of a football stadium to be located on the campus of William Fleming High School, was before Council.

A report of the Director of Finance recommending that Council concur in the request of the School Board, was also before the body.

Council Member Cutler offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37363-041706) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding for the William Fleming High School Stadium Project, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 Capital Projects and School Capital Projects Funds Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 251.)

Council Member Cutler moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37363-041706. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe.

Council Member Lea expressed concern that the appropriation of funds to construct an athletic field at William Fleming High School in 2008, as opposed to 2010, as was previously stated is a political ploy during in a Councilmanic election year. He stated that he would like to send a message to Councilmanic candidates that the year is 2006, and the black community cannot be bought with sound bites and snappy campaign ideals, but must be earned based on a proven record of achievements.

Council Member Wishneff pointed out that the City paid a consultant \$150,000.00 for a study of Victory Stadium that included no school athletic field alternatives. He advised that the consultant's report stated that by using historic tax credits, the City could construct an 18,000 seat stadium for about \$13 million, compared to a 5,000 seat stadium in the range of \$18 to \$19 million. He stated that no meeting was held to discuss the results of the consultant's study, and Council proceeded to authorize athletic fields at both high schools. He added that the Western Virginia Education Classic will not be played in Roanoke in the future because there is no appropriate location to play the football games. He expressed disappointment that the Council did not support continued funding for the Blue Ridge Technical Academy, yet Council approved the construction of an athletic field for Patrick Henry High School after listening to the sentiments of rising seniors at Patrick Henry.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick advised that a decision was made by a majority of the Council to build stadia at the two high schools at a cost of \$8.2 million, which saves taxpayers in excess of \$12 million when adding in the restrooms at Victory Stadium that were not included in the consultant's report, and is also questionable if full historic tax credits could be used. However, he stated that the real question rests with the numerous issues that currently face the City that are far more critical than a stadium. He advised that he could not in good conscience vote to invest large sums of taxpayers' money in a stadium that will provide no rate of return on the money; and the majority of Council is attempting to move the City of Roanoke forward in a way that will have implications 20-50 years into the future.

The Mayor advised that the Stadium Study Committee brought forth a number of recommendations, one of which Council unanimously forwarded to the School Board to study the question of construction of day stadiums at the two high schools. He stated that Council engaged in a lengthy and thorough discussion following the consultant's report in a work session which was followed by a public presentation by the consultant at a Council meeting. He advised that when factoring in historic tax credits for the renovation of Victory Stadium, \$19 to \$20 million of public money would be required; therefore, when alluding to the \$13 million figure, the impression is given that the total cost of renovating Victory Stadium is \$13 million when, in fact, it would be a \$20 million project versus an \$8.2 million high school stadium effort. In closing, he stated that on November 7, 2005, the majority of Council voted to

approve high school stadia, with \$4.1 million for the Patrick Henry stadium and \$4.1 million for the William Fleming stadium; a community engagement process was agreed to with regard to the Patrick Henry stadium, with the understanding that as soon as the process was completed, the community engagement process would proceed with regard to the William Fleming stadium; and at the end of the respective processes, the Council would adopt ordinances appropriating funds which were previously approved for the Patrick Henry stadium and are now being requested for the William Fleming stadium.

Ordinance No. 37363-041706 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, McDaniel and Mayor Harris-----5.

NAYS: Council Members Lea and Wishneff-----2.

LOANS-SCHOOLS: A report of the Roanoke City School Board requesting that Council approve a State Literary Fund loan application in the amount of \$2 million for improvements to Monterey Elementary School, was before Council.

It was advised that the loan application includes a resolution for architectural supervision; and debt service on the loan will increase the School Board's debt service expenditure by \$80,000.00; commencing in fiscal year 2007-2008, but no debt service liability is incurred until funds are drawn against the loan account.

A report of the Director of Finance recommending that Council concur in the request of the School Board, was also before the body.

Council Member Dowe offered the following resolution:

(#37364-041706) A RESOLUTION authorizing the School Board for the City of Roanoke to make application for a loan from the State Literary Fund for modernizing Monterey Elementary School.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 70, Page 252.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37364-041706. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following resolution:

(#37365-041706) A RESOLUTION authorizing the School Board for the City of Roanoke to expend funds for improving the present school building at Monterey Elementary School and declaring the City's intent to borrow to fund or reimburse such expenditures.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 70, Page 253.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37365-041706. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

BUDGET-SCHOOLS: A report of the Roanoke City School Board requesting appropriation of the following funds, was before Council:

- \$19,171.00 for the Comprehensive School Reform Grant for Huff Lane Micro Village, to provide for replication of successful intervention programs from other school divisions; and funds will provide staffing for a MicroSociety program which includes staff development and skills instruction for students, said program to be 100 per cent reimbursed by Federal funds;
- \$19,171.00 for the Comprehensive School Reform Grant for Oakland Elementary School to provide for replication of successful intervention programs from other school divisions; and funds will provide for staff development for teachers and math skills instruction for students, said continuing program to be 100 per cent reimbursed by Federal funds;

- \$105,000.00 for the Title I School Improvement program to aid the school division in efforts to provide strategies to increase student learning at seven low-performing schools, said continuing program to be 100 per cent reimbursed by Federal funds;
- \$3,365.00 for the Title III Grant to provide services to students with limited English proficiency and to immigrant children, said continuing program to be 100 per cent reimbursed by Federal funds;
- \$180,000.00 for the William Fleming Community Learning Center; the Center will be open year round and serve 150 students and 100 adults annually; and the Center will provide educational services to increase student performance on the Standards of Learning, said continuing program to be 100 per cent reimbursed by Federal funds;
- \$5,000.00 for the William Fleming High School Honor Schools Project Graduation Expansion Grant, to provide funds for middle and high school instruction to students requiring remediation in English/Reading/Writing and Algebra I, said new program to be 100 per cent reimbursed by State funds; and
- \$920.00 for the William Fleming High School NGA Honor Schools Program, to provide funds for three teachers to receive training to teach Advanced Placement or dual enrollment courses as part of Virginia's NGA Honor Schools Program, said new program to be 100 per cent reimbursed by State funds.

A report of the Director of Finance recommending that Council concur in the request of the School Board, was also before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37366-041706) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding for the Comprehensive School Reform Grants, Title I School Improvement Program, Title III Grant, William Fleming Community Learning Center, William Fleming Honor Schools Expansion Grant, and William Fleming Honors Schools Program, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 School Fund Appropriations and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 254.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37366-041706. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: NONE.

MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

INQUIRIES AND/OR COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL: NONE.

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard and matters requiring referral to the City Manager will be referred immediately for response, recommendation or report to Council.

SIDEWALK-STREETS AND ALLEYS: Mr. Jeff Roudabush, 209 Princeton Circle, N. E., advised that recently improvements were made to neighborhood streets in the area of Princeton Circle by the addition of curb and sidewalk; and additions were welcomed and appreciated, not only because they added to the attractiveness and value of the neighborhood, but to the safety of residents and to those persons traveling through the area.

He stated that last year, a portion of Princeton Circle (3417 - 3660) was addressed, paving operations have begun for the entire street and milling has been done on that portion of the street that was provided with curbs only. He asked the following questions:

- Why was the remaining portion of Princeton Circle, or approximately 1150 feet, not provided with curb at the same time?

- When will curbs be installed?
- How will the present paving operation affect the future addition of curbs? If curbs are installed at a later date, will the new pavement be reworked, or will the street have a patchwork appearance?
- Will manhole locations be indented, or will new pavement be tapered thin enough to allow smooth passage by vehicles? Can pavement be tapered and still provide the durability that is needed since that portion of the street is subject to more traffic by heavy vehicles than the other portion of Princeton Circle?

The Mayor advised that the questions raised by Mr. Roudabush would be referred to the City Manager for response.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Wiley J. Burrows, 325 Willow Oak Drive, S. W., spoke in support of the City of Roanoke's economic development program. He also spoke in support of renovations to Patrick Henry and William Fleming High Schools which will allow all students to be housed in one building and maximize the use of land, which is considered to be economic development at its best. He commended improvements to Henry Street and the Grandin Road area that will lead to major improvements by business owners, creation of the Western Virginia Water Authority, the Roanoke Civic Center expansion project, and establishment of Ivy Market and the Bio Medical Center project. He spoke in support of construction of the proposed hotel in the area north of Reserve Avenue and suggested that a sound barrier wall be installed, the O. Winston Link Museum and the Roanoke River Flood Reduction Plan. He stressed the importance of resolving the Victory Stadium issue so that the City can move on to more pressing and important issues. In closing, he commended the City of Roanoke on past economic development efforts and expressed appreciation to Council Members Cutler and McDaniel for their service to the City of Roanoke.

CITY MARKET: Anita Wilson, a City Market Building tenant, expressed concern that no lease renewal option is included in her lease agreement for space in the City Market Building. She stated that according to the floor plan contained in the market consultant's report, it appears that one-half of City Market Building tenants will be disenfranchised. She further stated that

numerous businesses have moved out of the downtown area; and the City Market Building should be renovated, but small businesses cannot afford to be out of business for 12 – 18 months while renovations are made at a cost of \$2.9 million. In closing, she asked that Council take into consideration the small businesses in the City Market Building that could be disenfranchised as a result of recommendations by the City Market consultant.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick advised that Council received a copy of the consultant's report on Friday, April 27, no decisions have been made with regard to recommendations and the consultant's report provides numerous guidelines. He stated that downtown Roanoke is a crucial element in the City's overall economic development package, there is currently an element of confusion with regard to what needs to be done, which does not involve just the investment of money, but an understanding of the dynamics of the City Market and how it fits in with the rest of the Roanoke Valley. He advised that the City is attempting to improve the overall situation and nothing is about to happen in the near future that will change the scheme of the City Market Building or disenfranchise businesses.

ARMORY/STADIUM: Mr. Jim Fields, 17 Ridgecrest Road, Hardy, Virginia, advised that both the City Market Building and Victory Stadium have been neglected for a long time, and suggested that the third floor of the City Market Building be used as a senior citizens center. He spoke in support of the renovation of Victory Stadium and advised that with the proper marketing, Victory Stadium could be a revenue producing venue for the City, and the National Guard Armory could be converted into a military, public safety and sports hall of fame. In closing, he advised that Victory Stadium is an important part of the history of the City of Roanoke and should be renovated for future generations of the Roanoke Valley to visit and enjoy.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: None.

Council Member Wishneff left the meeting.

At 5:00 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess for four Closed Sessions.

At 5:20 p.m., the Council meeting reconvened in the City Council Chamber, with all Members of the Council in attendance, except Council Member Wishneff, Mayor Harris presiding.

COUNCIL: With respect to the Closed Meeting just concluded, Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that each Member of City Council certify to the best of his or her knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in any motion by which any Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by City Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was not present when the vote was recorded.)

BUILDINGS/BUILDING DEPARTMENT: The Mayor advised of a vacancy on the Local Board of Building Code Appeals; created by the resignation of John W. Dreiling; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the name of Charles R. Shaver.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Shaver was appointed as an alternate member of the Local Board of Building Code Appeals by the following vote:

FOR MR. SHAVER: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel and Mayor Harris-----6.

(Council Member Wishneff was not present when the vote was recorded.)

VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE-COMMITTEES: The Mayor advised that the following persons will be nominated to represent the City of Roanoke on Virginia Municipal League Policy Committees:

M. Rupert Cutler - Environmental Quality
William M. Hackworth - General Laws
Alfred T. Dowe, Jr. - Human Development and Education
Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr. - Transportation
Jesse A. Hall - Finance

At 5:25 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess to be reconvened at 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke.

At 7:00 p.m., on Monday, April 17, 2006, the Council meeting reconvened in the City Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, Virginia, with Vice-Mayor Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, Brenda L. McDaniel, Brian J. Wishneff (arrived late), and Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The invocation was delivered by Mayor C. Nelson Harris.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Harris.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

ROANOKE ARTS COMMISSION-ROANOKE VISION, COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN: Pursuant to instructions by the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 17, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on a proposal of the City of Roanoke to amend Vision 2001-2020, the City's Comprehensive Plan, to include the *Art for Everyone, Roanoke Public Art Plan*, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Tuesday, April 4, 2006 and Monday, April 10, 2006.

The City Planning Commission submitted a written report advising that the proposed Roanoke Public Art Plan recommends an expansion of the City's public art, recommends ways and means for future funding of public art, and provides a framework for acquisition, display and maintenance of publicly owned art; and while there is strong support for the general principles, goals and objectives contained in the Plan, the Planning Commission's recommendation includes a number of modifications to the draft plan, as follows:

- The Planning Commission does not recommend inclusion of the proposed Art in Private Development Policy/Ordinance as identified generally in the Plan and as specifically contained in Appendix Page A-9; the process that the proposed private development policy appears to contemplate as it pertains to a developer paying into an established public art fund to receive development incentives is not consistent with current State enabling legislation regarding incentive zoning.
- The establishment of a Public Art Trust Fund as outlined on Page 20, Item #3, whereby public monies are transferred and controlled by a separate trust fund is also not recommended; currently, funds designated for the Percent for Art program are retained in a separate account in the City's financial system with proper controls and audit review; and proposed modifications to the Plan include creation of a private foundation for the purpose of collecting private donations for the program which could be used to leverage public funds contained in the Percent for Art account.
- Recommended changes to the Percent for Art policy guidelines which were established by resolution of Council should be left to the discretion of Council and not to the Arts Commission as recommended in the Plan; any changes to either policy guidelines, or to the Percent for Art ordinance as contained in the City Code should be considered by Council outside of the parameters of the Plan; therefore, references to changes in the current Percent for Art policy guidelines are recommended for deletion from the Appendix of the Plan.
- Senior City administration staff attended a meeting of the Arts Commission on March 14, 2006, to further review the salient points of the draft Plan and discussed modifications to the contents; two specific points of clarification were identified, including the commitment to provide professional staff within the City administration to support Arts Commission activities; and development of a private trust fund to facilitate the assembly of private donations and monies in support of the public arts program; and the Arts Commission was encouraged to adopt guidelines related to internal processes for procurement of public art.

The City Planning Commission recommended that Council adopt the *Art for Everyone, Roanoke Public Art Plan*, as a component of *Vision 2001-2020*, the City of Roanoke Comprehensive Plan.

Council Member Cutler offered the following ordinance:

(#37367-041706) AN ORDINANCE approving the "Art for Everyone" Roanoke Public Art Plan, as modified, and amending Vision 2001 - 2020, the City's Comprehensive Plan, to include the "Art for Everyone" Roanoke Public Art Plan, as modified; and dispensing with the second reading of this ordinance by title.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 257.)

Council Member Cutler moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37367-041706. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to speak in connection with the matter. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

In response to a question by Council Member Cutler, the City Manager advised that the Public Art Plan will be available for review on the City's website.

Question was raised as to whether a public art policy will be included as a part of the Public Art Plan; whereupon, the City Manager advised that a policy statement will be drafted for approval by the Roanoke Arts Commission, to be followed by the approval of Council; however, the document will not be a part of the Comprehensive Art Plan.

There being no further discussion by Council Members, Ordinance No. 37367-041706 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, and Mayor Harris-----6.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was not present when the vote was recorded.)

Council Member Wishneff entered the meeting.

ZONING: Pursuant to Resolution No. 25523 adopted by Council on Monday, April 6, 1981, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 17, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on the request of The Roanoke Mental Hygiene Services, Inc., that a tract of land located at 3003 Hollins Road, N. E., identified as Official Tax No. 3140817, and adjacent property identified as Official Tax No. 3140811, be rezoned from RM-1, Residential Mixed Density District, to INPUD, Institutional Planned Unit Development District, subject to certain conditions proffered by the petitioner, for the purpose of constructing a group care facility, halfway house on the properties, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, March 31, 2006 and Friday, April 7, 2006.

The City Planning Commission submitted a written report advising that Roanoke Mental Hygiene Services, Inc., the legal entity that holds property for Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, requests that the properties located on 3003 Hollins Road, N. E., be rezoned from RM-1, Residential Mixed Density District, to INPUD, Institutional Planned Unit Development District, with conditions, for the purpose of constructing a group care facility, halfway house.

The Planning Commission recommended Council approve the request for rezoning inasmuch as the petition, with condition, furthers the purposes of the City's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

Council Member Dowe offered the following ordinance:

(#37368-041706) AN ORDINANCE to amend §36.2-100, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, and the Official Zoning Map, City of Roanoke, Virginia, dated December 5, 2005, as amended, to rezone certain property within the City, subject to a certain condition proffered by the applicant; and dispensing with the second reading of this ordinance by title.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 258.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37368-041706. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick.

S. James Sikkema, Executive Director, Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, appeared before Council in support of the request.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to speak in connection with the public hearing; whereupon, the following persons addressed the Council.

Ms. Candace R. Williams, 1929 Dupree Street, N. W., inquired if there are plans to widen the access road leading to the proposed facility; whereupon, Jack Ellenwood, representing Engineering Concepts, advised that a deed of easement allows for access across the right-of-way at Hollins Road to the property in question, a new entrance location plan has been completed where access will be improved with a turn lane, and a traffic study has been filled with the City's Transportation Engineer for review. He stated that there are no plans to improve the existing roadway which will not be the access point for the project.

Gail Buruss, representing Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, advised that the facility that is proposed to be sited on Hollins Road is currently located at 801 Shenandoah Avenue, N. W. She stated that the current building does not allow for more structural improvements, while the demand for services has continued to increase. She explained that Shenandoah Recovery Center currently has 30 beds and the proposed new site will accommodate 40 beds, the same services will be provided at the Hollins Road site, and the facility will be safe, secure and serve as a good neighbor to residents of the area.

Rick Seidell, Director of Clinical Programs, Carilion Behavioral Health and Carilion Health System, advised that the Roanoke Valley has considerably more need for resources than currently exists to support citizens with mental illness and substance abuse issues. He further advised that in his daily responsibilities, he routinely deals with the consequences of these limited resources, the back up in Carilion's emergency room, the time it takes to receive inpatient care, and the difficulty in transferring patients to the State system and successfully returning those persons to the community. He explained that most of the demand for inpatient services and psychiatric services at Carilion involve residents of the City of Roanoke; inpatient resources for persons in need of acute and crisis care are often strained due to

insufficient capacity at not only Carilion, but at Lewis Gale and Catawba Hospitals; and the Shenandoah Recovery Center, operated by Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, helps to ease the strain by providing crisis stabilization services, detoxification and substance abuse care. He stated that insufficient space and other facility limitations at the Shenandoah Recovery Center have increased the demand for inpatient care and further backs up the system; and some persons currently in the Carilion system who receive acute level 24 hour a day nursing care could be provided with safe and effective care at the Shenandoah Recovery Center. He added that the Hollins Road property will provide a convenient and accessible location for the new Shenandoah Recovery Center, and would have minimal impact on the residential area; therefore, he requested that Council vote in favor of the rezoning.

Ms. Margaret L. Haven, 4629 Long Acre Drive, N. E., spoke in support of the rezoning. She commended Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare on the manner in which they maintain their properties and the steps they have taken to ensure the safety of neighborhoods.

There being no further speakers, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

As a result of questions raised by Council Members, it was advised that 40 persons can be accommodated at the proposed facility; the Cities of Roanoke and Salem and the Counties of Roanoke, Botetourt and Craig are served by the facility; the existing building will establish the architectural character for development of the property; the exterior of the building will be restored to its original condition; an addition that is not consistent with the original design will be removed, and the interior of the building will be renovated to provide general support facilities for the entire complex as the facility is developed out; the intent is to link a new building with the existing two story building, and a two story addition is envisioned with an elevator and an atrium to separate the two buildings, which will provide the flexibility to build at all levels; the first phase of development includes construction of a facility for the Shenandoah Recovery Center, which is a 24/7 sub-acute care facility that will be separate from the Feller's home which is the 1882 structure; and the Feller's home will be stabilized, the ground floor will be renovated for meeting rooms, and no 24/7 activities are envisioned for that portion of the building.

There being no further discussion by Council Members, Ordinance No. 37368-041706 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

ZONING: Pursuant to Resolution No. 25523 adopted by Council on Monday, April 6, 1981, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 17, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on the request of Covenant Presbyterian Church to amend the INPUD, Institutional Planned Unit Development District, to include a development plan for property located at 1831 Deyerle Road, S. W., Official Tax No. 5070410, to allow for construction of a new addition on the property, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, March 31, 2006 and Friday, April 7, 2006.

The City Planning Commission submitted a written report advising that Covenant Presbyterian Church requests an amendment to the INPUD District to include a development plan for a one-story, 8,930 square foot addition to be constructed on the west side of the existing building on a portion of the current off-street parking area.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the request inasmuch as the petition to amend the INPUD, Institutional Planned Unit Development District to include a development plan, with a proffered condition, is consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following ordinance:

(#37369-041706) AN ORDINANCE to amend §§36.2-100, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, and the Official Zoning Map, City of Roanoke, Virginia, dated December 5, 2005, as amended, to amend the INPUD, Institutional Planned Unit Development District, to include as conditions a proffered development plan and elevation plans for property located at 1831 Deyerle Road, S. W., Official Tax No. 5070410; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 260.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37369-041706. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe.

C. John Renick, Attorney, appeared before Council in support of the request of his client.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to speak in connection with the public hearing. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There being no questions or comments by Council Members, Ordinance No. 37369-041706 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

TAXES: Pursuant to instructions by the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 17, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on a request of Straight Street Roanoke Valley, Inc., a non-profit organization, for exemption from local real estate taxation of real property located at 333 Luck Avenue, S. W., Official Tax No. 1012020, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, April 7, 2006.

The City Manager submitted a communication advising that Straight Street Roanoke Valley, Inc., owns property described as Official Tax No. 1012020, located at 333 Luck Avenue, S. W.; the primary purpose of Straight Street Roanoke Valley, Inc., is to serve youth, children and families in the community; programs include a drop-in center, after-school program, mentoring for children of inmates through Prison Fellowship, ladies support group, and other programs that assist families in crisis, or with a teenager in trouble; and annual taxes due for fiscal year 2005-2006 on the above referenced parcel of land totals \$5,935.00 on an assessed value of \$490,500.00.

It was further advised that on May 19, 2003, Council approved a revised policy and procedure in connection with requests from non-profit organizations for tax exemption of certain property in the City of Roanoke, pursuant to Resolution No. 36331-051903, effective January 1, 2003; Straight Street Roanoke Valley, Inc., has provided the necessary information required prior to April 15, 2006, which is the deadline for applications for exemptions that would take effect on July 1, 2006; and according to the Office of the Commissioner of the Revenue, the loss of revenue to the City will be \$4,748.00 annually after a 20 per cent service charge is levied by the City in lieu of real estate taxes or \$1,187.00.

It was explained that the Commissioner of the Revenue has determined that the organization is currently not exempt from paying real estate taxes on the property by classification or designation under the Code of Virginia; and the IRS recognizes Straight Street Roanoke Valley as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.

The City Manager recommended that Council authorize Straight Street Roanoke Valley, Inc., to be exempt from real estate property taxation, pursuant to Article X, Section 6(a)6 of the Constitution of Virginia, effective July 1, 2006, for property described as Official Tax No. 1012020, located at 333 Luck Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, if the organization agrees to pay the above referenced service charge by that date.

Council Member Dowe offered the following ordinance:

(#37370-041706) AN ORDINANCE exempting from real estate property taxation certain property located in the City of Roanoke of Straight Street Roanoke Valley, Inc., an organization devoted exclusively to charitable or benevolent purposes on a non-profit basis; providing for an effective date; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 261.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37370-041706. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel.

Keith Farmer, Director, Straight Street Roanoke Valley, Inc., appeared before Council in support of the request.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to speak in connection with the public hearing. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There being no questions or comments by Council Members, Ordinance No. 37370-041706 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

TAXES: Pursuant to instructions by the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 17, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on the request of Blue Ridge Gospel Outreach, Inc., a non-profit organization, for exemption from local real estate taxation of real property located at 9 Salem Avenue, S. W., described as Official Tax No. 1010512, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, April 7, 2006.

The City Manager submitted a communication advising that Blue Ridge Gospel Outreach, Inc., owns property described as Official Tax No. 1010512, located at 9 Salem Avenue, S. W.; the primary purpose of Blue Ridge Gospel Outreach Inc., is to serve the poor, drug addicts, and those in need of a change in lifestyle by providing counseling services through regular religious services and charitable and educational experiences; and annual taxes due for fiscal year 2005-2006 on the above referenced parcel of land totals \$777.00 on an assessed value of \$64,200.00.

It was further advised that on May 19, 2003, Council approved a revised policy and procedure in connection with requests from non-profit organizations for tax exemption of certain property in the City of Roanoke, pursuant to Resolution No. 36331-051903, effective January 1, 2003; and Blue Ridge Gospel Outreach, Inc., has provided the necessary information required prior to April 15, 2006, which is the deadline for applications for exemptions that would take effect on July 1, 2006.

It was explained that according to the Office of the Commissioner of the Revenue, the loss of revenue to the City will be \$622.00 annually after a 20 per cent service charge, or \$155.00, is levied by the City in lieu of real estate taxes; and the Commissioner of the Revenue has determined that the organization is currently not exempt from paying real estate taxes on the above referenced property by classification or designation under the Code of Virginia; and the IRS recognizes Blue Ridge Gospel Outreach, Inc., as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.

The City Manager recommended that Council authorize Blue Ridge Gospel Outreach, Inc., to be exempt from real estate property taxation, pursuant to Article X, Section 6(a)6 of the Constitution of Virginia, effective July 1, 2006, for property described as Official Tax No. 1010512, located at 9 Salem Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, if the organization agrees to pay the subject service charge by that date.

Council Member Dowe offered the following ordinance:

(#37371-041706) AN ORDINANCE exempting from real estate property taxation certain property located in the City of Roanoke of Blue Ridge Gospel Outreach, Inc., an organization devoted exclusively to charitable or benevolent purposes on a non-profit basis; providing for an effective date; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 264.)

Scott Lyons, President, Blue Ridge Gospel Outreach, Inc., appeared before Council in support of the request.

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37371-041706. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to speak in connection with the request. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There being no questions or comments by Council Members, Ordinance No. 37371-041706 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

ZONING: Pursuant to Resolution No. 25523, adopted by the Council on Monday, April 6, 1981, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 17, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on the request of Marcus O. Brown, Sr., that a portion of a tract of land located on Viewmont Street, N. W., identified as Official Tax No. 2660514, be rezoned from R5, Residential Single Family District, to CG, Commercial General District, for the purpose of a used motor vehicle sale and service establishment, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, March 31, 2006 and Friday April 7, 2006.

A report of the City Planning Commission advising that the petitioner filed a petition with the City in August 2002, to rezone the entire portion of the subject property from RS-3, Residential Single-Family District, to C-2, General Commercial District; however, the petitioner withdrew the petition at the August 15, 2002, City Planning Commission meeting; as a part of the comprehensive rezoning adopted by Council on December 5, 2005, the subject property is now zoned R-5, Residential Single-Family District; and the petitioner requests that a 3,172.9 square foot portion of the property be rezoned from R-5 to CG, Commercial-General District, to permit used motor vehicle sales on the adjoining property, which is zoned CG, Commercial-General District.

It was further advised that by a vote of 3-4, a motion to rezone failed, therefore, the City Planning Commission does not recommend approval of the request. It was noted that a majority of the Planning Commission found that the petition to rezone the subject property from R-5, Residential Single-Family District, to CG, Commercial-General District, did not further the purposes of the City's Comprehensive Plan, the Fairland/Villa Heights Neighborhood Plan, or the Zoning Ordinance.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following ordinance:

(#37372-041706) AN ORDINANCE to amend §36.2-100, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, and the Official Zoning Map, City of Roanoke, Virginia, dated December 5, 2005, as amended, to rezone certain property within the City, subject to proffered conditions; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 266.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37372-041706. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe.

Marcus O. Brown, Sr., petitioner, appeared before Council in support of the request for rezoning.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to speak in connection with the public hearing; whereupon, the following persons addressed the Council:

The Reverend Shadrack Brown, Jr., 2229 Mattaponi Drive, N. W., commended his son on efforts to contribute to the economic growth of the City of Roanoke and for setting a positive example for other young people. He stated that many of Roanoke's young people are leaving the City due to the lack of job opportunities and the means to provide for their families; therefore, the petitioner should be commended for providing an opportunity for additional employment.

Mr. Herbert Coles, 917 Viewmont Street, N. W., advised that the petitioner is to be commended for his efforts to raise the City's tax base and to offer job opportunities; however, residents are concerned about lighting issues from the establishment that will not be conducive to a family setting in a residential neighborhood; and the view from the top of the hill at Viewmont Street could become an eyesore if not properly maintained and could have an adverse affect on residential property values. He expressed concern with regard to how access to the rear of the property will affect traffic on Viewmont Street; and the encroachment of businesses further up Viewmont Street which will also depreciate property values.

Ms. Renee Coles, 917 Viewmont Street, N. W., expressed concern with regard to the encroachment of businesses into a residential neighborhood. She stated that she lives directly across the street from the used car business and if the petitioner is willing to construct a home in the area proposed to be rezoned, she would support the request for rezoning. She added that she could support the Melrose Avenue portion of the request, but spoke against the rezoning of property on Viewmont Street.

There being no further speakers, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Council Member Lea requested clarification with regard to the additional 15 feet of property proposed to be rezoned; whereupon, Mr. Townsend advised that the property that fronts on Melrose Avenue was zoned commercial prior to the December 5, 2005, mass rezoning of the City and remained commercial; however, in order to operate a used car establishment, total square footage of 15,000 square feet on the lot is required and without the additional 15 feet, the lot which is currently zoned commercial is short of meeting the requirement. He stated that the petitioner has proffered that the additional 15 feet will be used solely for the purpose of landscaping which must be completed within six months of adoption of the proposed zoning change, and all access to the property must come from curb cuts that are currently in place on either Viewmont Avenue or Melrose Avenue, but no additional access could occur to the rear of the property. He added that the lot in question contains 100 feet fronting on Viewmont Avenue, if the 15 feet closest to Melrose Avenue were rezoned conditionally to commercial, it would leave approximately 85 feet of remaining frontage that is currently zoned residential; the area is classified as an R-5 zoning district which means that the lot can contain no less than 50 feet of frontage, therefore, the lot could not be subdivided and would have to be used for a house inasmuch as it contains only 85 feet. He stated that because the zoning petition applies to only 15 feet, conditions can be applied to the 15 feet of property, and not to other property that will remain residential. He advised that the remaining 85 feet of property facing Viewmont Avenue will continue to be zoned residential and the only thing the petitioner could do with the property would be to construct a single-family house, vehicles could not be parked on the property, nor could the property be used for any purpose relating to the used car business fronting on Melrose Avenue. He explained that a condition could not be added to the petition for rezoning to compel the petitioner to construct a single-family home on the remaining piece of property within a certain timeframe.

Upon question by a Member of Council, Mr. Brown advised that he understands the concerns of his neighbors and would not construct anything commercial on the residential lot.

Council Member Cutler inquired about the type of trees that will be planted as a part of the proffer relating to landscaping; whereupon, Mr. Townsend advised that rezoning of the 15 feet requires the planting of evergreen trees along the edge of the property and it will be the decision of the petitioner as to which species of evergreen trees will be planted.

Question was raised with regard to measure(s) to ensure that landscaping/vegetation will be well established and properly maintained; whereupon, Mr. Townsend advised that because landscaping is a proffered condition, the petitioner will be required to establish, maintain and replace landscaping/vegetation as necessary.

Question was raised with regard to lighting; whereupon, Mr. Townsend advised that with adoption of the new zoning ordinance in December 2005, outdoor lighting standards will prohibit any outdoor lighting in the 15 foot buffer, and any new light fixture(s) must conform with aiming angles and other provisions of the new zoning ordinance. He stated that any lighting currently on the building, or on the site, will be grandfathered and could remain in place.

Following further discussion, Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick advised that his concern will be alleviated with the 15 foot buffer area, along with trees that will be planted in such a manner that there could be no storage of vehicles which would address the major concerns expressed by Mr. and Mrs. Coles. He stated that it will be up to residents of the area to address concerns regarding that portion of the property that is not subject to the proffered condition.

There being no further questions or comments by Council Members, Ordinance No. 37372-041706 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff and Mayor Harris-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

LIBRARIES-ARMORY/STADIUM-BONDS/BOND ISSUES: Pursuant to instructions by the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 17, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on a proposal of the City of Roanoke to appropriate certain remaining bond funds to a capital account for the purpose of renovating or constructing new library facilities in the City, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Monday, April 3, 2006 and Wednesday, April 12, 2006.

The City Manager submitted a communication advising that on March 6, 2006, pursuant to Ordinance No. 37316-030606, Council authorized the appropriation of \$4.1 million for the Patrick Henry High School Stadium Project from the Stadium/Amphitheater Project account; an additional \$4.1 million is recommended for reallocation from the Stadium/Amphitheater Project account for a stadium at William Fleming High School; and on March 15, 2006, the Mayor requested concurrence by Council in the scheduling and advertising of a public hearing for Monday, April 17, 2006, to reallocate certain remaining 2002A general obligation bond funds into a capital account for the purpose of renovating or constructing new library facilities in the City.

It was further advised that on December 19, 2005, Council approved the Roanoke Comprehensive Library Study to become a part of Vision 2001-2020, the City's Comprehensive Plan; the Library Study recommends a three phase delivery system of neighborhood, full service and resource centers that will bring a depth of collections, services and collections, staffing, technology and programs; Phase I has a total projected cost of \$15.4 million and consists of building a new full service branch, renovation of an existing branch and a stand alone kiosk branch; and Series 2002A bond funds of \$5,590,000.00 are available in the Stadium/Amphitheater Project account for reallocation.

Following the public hearing and if it is the desire of Council, the City Manager recommended that Council adopt a resolution to authorize reallocation of Series 2002A bond funds for Library Projects; adopt an ordinance to reallocate funding in the amount of \$5,590,000.00 from the Stadium/Amphitheater Project, Account No. 008-530-9758-9076, to an account to be established by the Director of Finance in the Capital Projects Funds, entitled Library Facilities Project.

Council Member Dowe offered the following resolution:

(#37373-041706) A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Roanoke, Virginia, reallocating the purposes and the amounts of the General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds in the principal amount of \$31,245,000.00 authorized for issuance under Resolution No. 35489-080601 and the General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds of the City in the principal amount of \$830,000.00 authorized for issuance under Resolution No. 35736-012202.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 70, Page 268.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37373-041706. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to speak in connection with the public hearing; whereupon, the following persons addressed the Council.

Joyce Waugh, representing the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce and its 1,400 members expressed support with regard to the recommendations contained in the Library Comprehensive Study, and encouraged action on the first phase of the study which includes a much needed investment for new or renovated Library facilities. She stated that the Library Study made a lot of good points, including the fact that libraries are an integral part of communities, and in order to have top tier libraries, investments are needed; quality of life issues continue to weigh heavily on the decision making process of employers and employees, and amenities such as libraries play an important role in determining where entrepreneurs will live. She stated that a specific threshold of quality is required of a library system to add vibrancy to the region's economy; therefore, the Chamber of Commerce supports a regional library system, and any investments that are made in the Roanoke City Public Library system will enhance the entire Roanoke Valley library system.

Michael Ramsey spoke on behalf of the Roanoke Public Library Foundation, the Roanoke Public Library Advisory Board, and Friends of the Library, in support of funding for the Roanoke Public Library. He stated that last year, Roanoke's library consultants completed a comprehensive study of public library facilities in Roanoke City and Roanoke County; and the Library Study was a thoughtful process that was conducted over a two year period, involving a large number of citizens and library users from every part of the City, representing a demographic and economic cross section of the community. He explained that among the findings of the Library Study was the recognition of decades of neglect, and a need to make major improvements in facilities and service delivery methods in Roanoke's public library system. He stated that noting that this valuable public resource had been ignored and under funded for several decades, the consultant recommended a plan to build new libraries, renovate existing structures, and find non-traditional means of disseminating library services; and proposed expenditures included recommendations for capital expenditures that will allow libraries to expand services with a modest increase in staff size. He noted that in the past year, there has been a dramatic increase in the use of public libraries, with general visitation increasing 15 per cent, the number of patrons attending library programs increasing 43 per cent, computer use by patrons increasing 82 per cent, and summer reading program attendance increasing 94 per cent. He advised that reading comprehension and reasoning skills are crucial to

increasing standards of learning performance in the schools; these skills, combined with a love of learning, are best learned at an early age; public libraries have long been the place where young people are introduced to the skills and the mindset that will foster success throughout life; and early readers make early learners and early learners are more likely to perform at a higher level in school and throughout life. He stated that often referred to as the "peoples' university", the public library offers opportunities for lifelong learning, improvement of job related skills, and a place for public assembly that fosters a stronger community; and the public library is a valuable public asset that needs to be nurtured through a carefully planned inclusive study process. He added that the 380,000 visits to Roanoke Valley libraries last year demonstrates that the citizenry wants better libraries; therefore, the intention of Roanoke City Council to provide funding to improve a long neglected community asset, the public library system, is applauded.

Mr. John R. Graybill, 2443 Tillett Road, S. W., advised that his career was devoted to education, therefore, he has a fondness for libraries; however, he expressed concern with regard to the procedure. He stated that the issue is not about libraries, but about Victory Stadium and the fact that the City of Roanoke has neglected its responsibility to maintain the stadium which was given to the City by Norfolk and Western Railway with the caveat that the City would properly maintain the facility. He added that students from Roanoke's two high schools currently have no place to play football; and past and present City Councils have failed in their duty to provide oversight of a School Board that has allowed all of the beautiful buildings at Patrick Henry High School to be demolished in favor of construction of a new \$35 million school building, followed by another \$4.1 million to construct a stadium on school grounds. He stated that there has been no community input with regard to the Library Study, therefore, many citizens of Roanoke have lost faith and trust in the Members of City Council.

Almena R. Hughes, 3156 Linwood Road, N. W., past President of Melrose Branch Friends of the Library, advised that the library system is the barometer of a locality's vitality and provides a lifeline to the community. She stated that the City of Roanoke should invest funds to improve its library system in order for the City to continue in its efforts to move forward.

Ms. Martha Williams, 3758 Red Fox Lane, N. W., spoke not only in support of the library, but in support of the overall issue of learning in the Roanoke Valley. She stated that she has serious questions about the value of learning in the City of Roanoke, which is reflected in the City's library system, and pointed out that when she left the Roanoke Valley in 1978 and returned in 2002, Roanoke's libraries were basically the same. She further stated that this is frightening because it is a reflection on not just the people of the community, but on the value and importance of learning. She advised that there must be a commitment to learning, not only in the public libraries, but in the school system, because libraries are critical for those persons who do not have access to the public education system. She asked that Council move forward with funding to improve the Roanoke Public Library system.

Mr. Norbert Weckstein, 2602 Wilshire Avenue, S. W., discussed the following figures: \$13.7 million remains of the original amount that was budgeted for the stadium, the Mayor is proposing that \$8.2 million be used for high school stadia, or \$4.1 million each, and that the remaining \$5.5 million be transferred to the Library Fund, however, no funds are allocated for the demolition of Victory Stadium. He stated that the \$4.1 million estimate for each high school sports facility is unrealistically low, there are no approved plans for the high school stadia, and no independent cost study was conducted. He called attention to an independent national study on file at the Roanoke Public Library which projects that the estimated cost of a 3,000 seat new stadium is \$2,200.00 per seat, or \$6.6 million per stadium, or a total of \$13.2 million for both high school stadia, and an updated version of the study which addresses all recommended improvements, increases the cost to \$3,300.00 per seat, or \$9.9 million per stadium. He added that the more realistic cost projection would completely wipe out the \$13.7 million that remains in the stadium budget, and would require additional funds for the demolition and/or renovation of the Victory Stadium site. He advised that if Council is serious about building any stadium, it appears to be extremely short sighted and unbusinesslike to transfer funds from the stadium budget prior to better defining stadium construction costs. He stated that although he supports Roanoke's libraries, libraries should be addressed as a separate issue.

Mr. Winfred D. Noell, 2743 Northview Drive, S. W., advised that in the past, whenever money was needed, funding was addressed as a part of the City's overall budget process. He stated that he supports Roanoke's libraries, but does not favor the construction of libraries at the expense of other citizens in the Roanoke Valley who favor the renovation of Victory Stadium. He questioned the legality of transferring funds from bonds that were sold to

renovate Victory Stadium, or to construct a new stadium. He stated that the citizens of Roanoke are being pitted against each other; i.e.: library patrons versus stadium patrons, which is not healthy for the Roanoke Valley; therefore, he objected to transferring money out of the stadium fund for library improvements.

Mr. Richard Kepley, 550 Kepplewood Road, S. W., advised that all citizens favor renovated libraries; however, the issue appears to be politically motivated when the decision is to be made just two weeks before a Councilmanic election. He read from a newspaper article stating that the City of Roanoke owes \$250 million in debt which is \$2,600.00 per resident, and inquired as to the funding source to construct the athletic field at William Fleming High School. He expressed concern that it was recently reported that another \$4 million will be needed for construction of Patrick Henry High School which started out at \$36 million, then went to \$46 million, then \$48 million, and currently an additional \$4 million is proposed. He stated that spending in the City of Roanoke is out of control, and the City's \$250 million debt needs to be paid off before the City commits to the funding of other projects. He suggested that the funds not be transferred to the library account and that any excess funds be used toward paying off the City's \$250 million debt, especially in view of the future construction of William Fleming High School and Water Pollution Control Plant expenditures, etc.

Mr. Mark C. McConnel, 532 Linden Street, S. W., advised that having studied libraries for the past 19 years, it is economically and educationally vital to a community to offer a current and up to date library system, second only to schools. He stated that he supports the funding of the \$30 million of recommendations made by the library consultant and, over the next five years, Council should develop a creative plan to fully fund each recommendation contained in the Library study. He pointed out that the library is an information transfer center, not just a warehouse for books; however, in order to be successful, all citizens of Roanoke must be supportive of funding for library improvements and not be made to feel that they have been robbed of funds that were intended for the stadium. He encouraged Council to develop a complete funding scenario for Roanoke's libraries, and that Council not continue to dismember the City's budget and the community.

Mr. Robert N. Richert, 415 Allison Avenue, S. W., spoke in support of capital investment in Roanoke's libraries. He stated that speaking from the standpoint of a citizen who spends considerable time in libraries all across the country, Roanoke's library system is not the worst, but it does not stand out as

the best in terms of infrastructure services. He added that the Virginia Room is second to none in the country for friendliness, availability, and assistance in genealogical research, but additional investment is needed by the City. He asked that Council support Roanoke's public libraries through the transfer of resources, followed by additional resources in the future to build a library system that the citizens of Roanoke can be proud of.

Mr. Robert D. Gravely, 727 29th Street, N. W., expressed concern with regard to the spending of taxpayers' money for high school stadia, library improvements, and a consultants report regarding Victory Stadium. He stated that library improvements should be funded through the school budget. He advised that reducing the City's real estate tax rate will not help some citizens of Roanoke because they cannot afford to purchase a house on today's wages; the City's infrastructure is not properly maintained; the City's crime rate is at an all time high; many citizens are leaving Roanoke and moving to other localities; and the City of Roanoke's economic development efforts are lacking.

There being no further speakers, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Council Member Lea advised that he has supported libraries and will continue to support libraries, but tonight there is a difference of opinion, not about the library itself, but about funds and the funding source. He added that he understands the critical need for libraries and the role that life long learning plays in a community. He stated that he has been a staunch supporter of the Western Virginia Education Classic College Football Game, which has brought over 500 young men and women back to school, but the game will be a thing of the past with the apparent loss of Victory Stadium. He advised that he will not support the ordinance to transfer funds, not because he is opposed to libraries, but because he is opposed to the source of funding.

Council Member Wishneff advised that he also supports libraries, but he could not support transferring funds from the stadium account to the library account. He called attention to a recent newspaper article which stated that 35 per cent of the public is of the opinion that Roanoke's schools are lacking which can be related to priorities established by the School Board. He advised that the mental health of a community is tied to its memories and it was unfortunate that Roanoke's newspaper and editorial staff and some Council candidates have criticized senior citizens and veterans who have expressed nostalgia about Victory Stadium.

Council Member Dowe advised that Roanoke has become crippled as a community, with good ideas, nobleness of intentions, and nobility of thought to the point of doing nothing. He stated that the funds in question will come from the Orange Avenue site which is no longer an issue; the current administration takes on the onus of all past administrations, regardless of whether they made good or poor decisions; and someone must have the courage to move on because logically speaking there will never be anything that everyone agrees on at the same time.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick advised that the City of Roanoke is relatively low in debt when compared to most communities of its size in the United States and particularly in the Commonwealth of Virginia. With regard to Victory Stadium, he stated that a considerable amount of time was devoted to discussing the return on investment, and no available data provides any indication that there will be a return on investment on a stadium, as opposed to a positive rate of return on investment in a library. He stated that approximately 380,000 citizens visited the Roanoke Public Libraries last year, compared to a total attendance at athletic events at Victory Stadium of about 10,000 persons. He further stated that a stadium cannot be built for less than \$20 million; therefore, the City is saving a significant amount of dollars by constructing two athletic fields at \$8.2, or a savings of \$10 - \$12 million, for Roanoke's taxpayers, part of which is proposed to be transferred to libraries. He advised that a stadium cannot be compared with a library because the future economic benefit of the Roanoke Valley will not be based on Victory Stadium, but on libraries and schools; and it is difficult to make a decision when there is acrimony on the Council and acrimony in the community, but the bottom line is that someone must make a decision and move on. He stated that he intended to vote in favor of the ordinance because it is incumbent upon Council to make long range decisions that will have an impact on the City of Roanoke. He applauded the Members of Council who want to move Roanoke forward and those citizens who are supportive of Council's efforts and asked that citizens bear with the Members of Council as they try to do what is the right thing for the City of Roanoke and the Roanoke Valley.

The Mayor advised that the current Council will remain in office until June 30, 2006, and will continue to conduct the business of the City of Roanoke. He stated that the City has limited resources and Council is charged with the responsibility of making the best decisions to allow Roanoke to move forward and to maximize tax dollars. He further stated that the City has, at its disposal, essentially \$15 million from a defunct stadium/amphitheater project; the majority of the Council has chosen over the past several meetings to do a number of things with the money; i.e.: \$4.1 million to Patrick Henry High School for an on campus stadium, \$4.1 million was appropriated earlier in the meeting for an on campus stadium at William Fleming High School, and

approximately \$5.6 million is proposed for library improvements. He added that the present Council inherited the library system as the system exists today; the current Council received the Library Study that showed the needs and the state of condition of Roanoke's public library system; and it is appropriate that the present Council take an initial step to begin to fiscally implement the solution.

There being no questions or comments by Council Members, Resolution No. 37373-041706 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, McDaniel and Mayor Harris-----5.

NAYS: Council Members Lea and Wishneff-----2.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37374-041706) AN ORDINANCE to reallocate general obligation bond proceeds to the Library Facilities Project, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 Capital Projects Fund Appropriations and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 270.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37374-041706. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick, McDaniel and Mayor Harris-----5.

NAYS: Council Members Lea and Wishneff-----2.

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard and matters requiring referral to the City Manager will be referred immediately for response, recommendation or report to Council.

SCHOOLS: Ms. Barbara Martinet, 823 Orchard Road, S. W., presented information which was downloaded from a website that is administered by the Virginia Department of Education with regard to graduation statistics in the City of Roanoke. She referred to charts that are available to every realtor in the area, and advised that the numbers, especially graduation numbers, are alarming. She stated that the new Superintendent of Schools in quoting from Virginia Department of Education numbers stated that there was an 80 per cent graduation rate last year, including students graduating with a GED; and speaking as a volunteer tutor for 15 years, she advised that students of Roanoke City deserve better. She pointed out that in 1996 and 1997, 63 per cent of ninth graders graduated and 62 per cent received diplomas; last year, according to the Superintendent of Schools, 58 per cent graduated, but only 48 per cent received diplomas, special education students took a serious upward turn, and only 43 per cent of ninth grade students received a standard or advanced diploma. She referred to another chart including 20 of the largest public school systems in the Commonwealth of Virginia; when computing the ratio of schools accredited to the total number of schools operated by the locality, Roanoke's school system ranked last in the 20 schools, with 12 out of 29 public schools fully accredited; and of the 132 public school systems in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the City of Roanoke has more public schools that are not fully accredited than any other school division in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

COMPLAINTS: Mr. Tony Hairston, 1263 Tayloe Avenue, S. E., expressed concern with regard to the overall management of the City of Roanoke. He advised that the youth of Roanoke City deserve a stadium and the City should reevaluate its spending priorities.

COMPLAINTS-CITY EMPLOYEES: Mr. Robert E. Gravely, 727 29th Street, N. W., expressed concern with regard to insufficient wages paid to City employees and advised that the average City worker cannot afford to purchase a house using today's wages. He referred to houses on Gilmer Avenue that sell for \$80,000.00 to \$90,000.00, and advised that the average City employee cannot afford to purchase a house in this price range. He questioned why the City continues to construct new homes for low income persons when the average pay scale is not high enough for the average worker to purchase a house.

ARMORY/STADIUM: Mr. Jim Fields, 17 Ridgecrest Road, Hardy, Virginia, advised that very little money has been spent by the City on the maintenance of Victory Stadium since 1995. He referred to an agreement between the City of Roanoke and Norfolk and Western Railway which stipulated that the City would maintain Victory Stadium for stadium/armory and park purposes. He stated that Victory Stadium does not belong to the City of Roanoke, but to the taxpayers and questioned the legality of transferring funds from the stadium account for library purposes, therefore, the question should be submitted to Roanoke's taxpayers for approval. Instead of constructing an athletic field at Patrick Henry High School, he suggested that Victory Stadium be renovated and that an athletic field be constructed at William Fleming High School where there is sufficient land and minimal expense other than the cost of bleachers. He further suggested that the National Guard Armory be converted to a sports hall of fame and a memorial to public safety employees, and that there be one large stadium to meet the needs of all citizens of Roanoke which would generate revenue to the City if the facility is properly marketed.

At 9:40 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess until Thursday, April 27, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, at which time the Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed 2006-2007 Fiscal year Budget for the City of Roanoke, HUD Funding Budget and Real Estate and Cigarette Tax Rates.

The regular meeting of the Roanoke City Council, which was called to order on Monday, April 17, 2006, at 2:00 p.m., reconvened on Thursday, April 27, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris presiding for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the proposed 2006-2007 Fiscal year Budget for the City of Roanoke, HUD Funding Budget and Real Estate and Cigarette Tax Rates.

PRESENT: Council Members M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Brenda L. McDaniel, Brian J. Wishneff and Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----6.

ABSENT: Council Member Sherman P. Lea-----1.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The invocation was delivered by Mayor Harris.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Harris.

The Mayor advised that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct public hearings on the recommended fiscal year 2006-2007 City budget, totaling \$239,607,000.00, an increase of 7.1 per cent over fiscal year 2005-2006; the City's 2006-2007 HUD funding budget, in the amount of \$3,730,478.00; and an increase in the cigarette tax from \$.0135 per cigarette to \$.027 per cigarette, or an additional \$.27 which will generate an additional \$1,520,000.00 in revenue to the City, effective July 1, 2006.

BUDGET: The City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Thursday, April 27, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the City's Recommended 2006-2007 fiscal year budget, totaling \$239,607,000.00, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on April 18, 2006.

(See publisher's affidavit on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

The Mayor advised that 11 persons had signed up speak; therefore, each speaker would be allotted three minutes.

Roger Elmore, incoming President of the Roanoke Valley Convention and Visitor's Bureau (RVCVB), expressed appreciation for past support by the City of Roanoke to the RVCVB. He advised that tourism spending in the Roanoke Valley, which includes the Cities of Roanoke and Salem and the Counties of Roanoke, Franklin and Botetourt, exceed \$500 million annually, with \$280 million spent in the City of Roanoke; valley wide tax receipts from tourism totaled over \$19 million, with City of Roanoke tax receipts representing over \$10 million for the year; and Roanoke Valley tourism employs over 7,300 people, with more than 3,600 from the City of Roanoke; and the Roanoke Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) Program generated over \$57 million in direct spending in fiscal year 2005-2006, or a six per cent increase over the previous year. He stated that Roanoke Valley CVB Programs generate a 48 to 1 return on investment, which is total spending divided by the CVB budget of

\$1.17 million; and most government projects do not generate a return on investment, however, a conservative estimate demonstrates that Roanoke Valley CVB Programs provide a three to one return on tax dollars on the City of Roanoke's investment in the CVB. He advised that if funding to the RVCVB is decreased, it will cause a reduction in marketing and advertising dollars at a time when the market place is growing more competitive with new products such as the Arts Museum and the Civic Center expansion; and RVCVB successes have been made possible by a hardworking professional staff and a consistent funding source to market the Roanoke Valley. He emphasized that a decrease in funding at this time will cause a reduction in future visitation to the Roanoke Valley; therefore, it is most important that funding from the City of Roanoke remain level as the RVCVB continues to move the Roanoke Valley and the City of Roanoke to a greater place for people to visit and transact business.

Susan Jennings, Director of the Arts Council of the Blue Ridge and a member of the Board of Directors, Roanoke Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau, advised that having served on the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and the Public Relations Committee, she has witnessed the effectiveness and professionalism of the RVCVB staff. She reiterated the remarks of Mr. Elmore regarding the return of investment to the City of Roanoke as a result of funding of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. She discussed the "trickle down" effect that a decrease in funding of the CVB will have on Roanoke's arts and cultural industry, and stated that a survey of major arts and cultural organizations in the Roanoke Valley revealed that Roanoke's arts and cultural industry is in a real crisis, many organizations have drastically cut their marketing budgets and staff, co-op marketing opportunities of the Convention and Visitors Bureau provide a majority of marketing for numerous arts and cultural organizations in order to make various venues and publications more affordable; and with cuts to the Virginia Commission of the Arts and Virginia Tourism budgets, collaborative opportunities are rarely available at the State level, therefore, local organizations must turn to the Convention and Visitors Bureau for assistance. She called attention to a cooperative effort with the RVCVB referred to as "Backyard Treasures", which is a marketing campaign directed at encouraging citizens within a 100 mile radius of Roanoke to support arts and cultural organizations, which could be in jeopardy if RVCVB funding is cut. Speaking from a non-profit organization perspective, Ms. Jennings advised that she has first hand knowledge with regard to the difficulty of balancing a budget; however, on behalf of the 113 organizations represented by the Arts Council, she urged that Council review the issue, not only because of the rate of return that the City receives on its investment to the CVB, but because of the harm that will be inflicted on many arts and cultural organizations within the Roanoke Valley if RVCVB funding is decreased.

Roy Chambers, President, Roanoke Valley Hospitality Association, representing over 135 lodging, tourism and hospitality establishments in the greater Roanoke Valley, 70 per cent of which are located within the City of Roanoke, advised that the Roanoke Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau markets the hospitality industry from all tourism and hospitality aspects, such as bus tours, sporting groups and other major events. He stated that the rate of investment from the RVCVB to the City of Roanoke is about six to one, and decreasing the budget of the Convention and Visitors Bureau by approximately \$60,000.00 is akin to taking \$180,000.00 to \$360,000.00 out of the City's coffers.

Elizabeth Stevens, Member of the Roanoke Valley Hospitality Association, Member of the Roanoke Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Director of the Hospitality and Tourism Program at National College of Business and Technology (NCBT), which is a career division center for tourism hospitality, called attention to the impact of decreased funding to the RVCVB as it relates to the Hospitality and Tourism Program at NCBT. She stated that 7,300 employees in the Roanoke Valley will be affected; and the CVB has a direct impact on the quality of education that can be offered through the Hospitality and Tourism Program at NCBT. She stated that funding cuts would not only hurt the economic development of the Roanoke Valley as a whole, but also the Roanoke Valley employment rate. Therefore, she encouraged Council to give careful consideration to the proposed decrease in funding of the RVCVB and to support the marketing efforts of the Convention and Visitors Bureau for the Roanoke Valley as a whole.

Ms. Lisa Gabourel, 1131 Grayson Avenue, N. W., spoke with regard to reinstating a request of Total Action Against Poverty for funds for a Technical Assistant position at the Dumas Drama Guild. She stated that the Dumas Drama Guild is the only African-American theater in the region.

Angela Penn, Director of Housing and Community Development, Total Action Against Poverty, spoke in support of an application submitted by TAP for an initiative that will provide on-going technical assistance and support for many of Roanoke's recently created and small non-profit organizations, many of whom operate on a volunteer basis. She explained that it is difficult for volunteers to conduct the necessary outreach programming of an organization, in addition to the business and technical aspects of developing and operating a non-profit organization. She added that throughout TAP's 40 year history, it

has been instrumental in incubating and replicating significant programs and services; i.e.: Legal Aid of Roanoke, RADAR, CHIP, Blue Ridge Housing Development Corporation, Virginia Water Project, Project Discovery, Inner City Athletic Association, The Dumas Drama Guild, Virginia CARES, Southwest Virginia Second Food Harvest Bank, Southwest Virginia Community Development Fund and the Center for Employment and Training. She advised that TAP has requested \$19,374.00 from Community Development Block Grant funds to support a program that will provide much needed services to small and non-profit organizations.

Ms. Yolanda Puyana, 5573 Valley Drive, S. W., spoke in support of the request of TAP which will assist the Latino community in establishing a Community Information Referral Center in the City Roanoke. She advised that in the future, it is anticipated that the referral center will offer education, living assistance, health and medical service programs.

Mr. Freddie Fuentes, 304 Summit Street, Lexington, Virginia, advised that he has worked with TAP to establish a Hispanic Community Center and emphasized the importance of the Community Information Referral Center as an entity to provide leadership and guidance to a community that is growing at a rate of approximately eight to one versus any other group of persons. He stated that Hispanic people are arriving at a rapid pace, filling the schools at a rate of 322 per cent over the past ten years, versus ten per cent in the Caucasian community and 18 per cent in the African-American community. He explained that there is a significant lack of leadership within the Hispanic community and it is hoped to address the issue through a community center where people will find a sense of community, guidance and information to achieve success in a new locality. He spoke to the national immigration issue and the fact that the Hispanic community is showing the most significant growth by groups who migrate from other locations within the United States due to housing affordability and work opportunities. He stated that the Hispanic group will be an integral part of the community within the next ten to 15 years, leading to a larger student body growth at local universities and educational establishments; therefore, the importance of establishing a community center is emphasized because whether this segment of the population is successful will depend largely on the quality of leadership that is provided.

Annette Lewis, Director, Total Action Against Poverty, This Valley Works Program, advised that TAP was told on multiple occasions that its application for CDBG funds, under the economic development category, was not funded because economic development was eliminated as a category for CDBG funding; the reasons that were provided pertained to reductions in funding sustained by HUD and because housing is the City's number one funding priority; however, after submitting a formal appeal, the City referred to deficiencies in TAP's application as a root cause for denial of funding. She stated that if TAP's application was deficient from the beginning, why was the organization not informed earlier, and why was TAP repeatedly told that its application was denied based on funding restrictions, and not based on the merit of the application. She addressed some of the perceived deficiencies by the City in TAP's Forklift Warehouse Operations Training application for CDBG funds; i.e.: (1) the review committee was concerned about TAP's ability to sustain the training program and continued dependence on CDBG funds; however, it was the intent of TAP to request initial CDBG funds as seed money for the first year, then ask for diminished CDBG funding support for the program in the second year and to supplement the program with training accounts and other funds; (2) TAP was rated low in certain areas that were not understandable, such as for not leveraging or combining funds from other sources; and (3) the total budget was \$183,000.00 and TAP proposed \$77,091.00 in matching funds, representing 42 per cent of the overall budget. She took issue with an evaluation which indicates that TAP was not addressing a vital community need, TAP's objectives were not clear and measurable, TAP lacked experience, and TAP lacked a satisfactory track record of demonstrating capabilities and performance. She stated that connecting low income City residents to jobs that pay \$12.00 to \$13.00 per hour with advancement potential is a vital community need and TAP has a long history of providing training for over 37 years which should speak to the effectiveness of the organization.

Drew Parsons, Regional Human Resources Manager, Pepsi Bottling Group, advised that the Pepsi Bottling Group is an \$11 billion corporation headquartered in Summers, New York, which generates approximately \$150 million in revenue sales in western Virginia, and employs 750 persons in western Virginia, 230 of whom are located in the Roanoke area. He stated that Pepsi operates eight locations in western Virginia, two manufacturing facilities and six distribution facilities and manufactures and distributes over 300 different types of liquid refreshment. He explained that the Roanoke warehouse employs 40 - 50 employees, all of whom are skilled operators who are forklift certified and earn approximately \$35,000.00 per year; and Pepsi Bottling Group enlisted the services of TAP, as opposed to using its normal staffing procedures, to provide an opportunity for low or no income citizens from downtown Roanoke to develop a skill that will translate into gainful employment. Additionally, he noted that once these individuals are employed

by Pepsi, they will have an opportunity to advance, to obtain their Certified Driver's License (CDL) and the necessary training that will lead to higher paying jobs. He stated that the Forklift Training and Warehouse Program will provide the opportunity to hire ten persons, with the goal of training an additional 20 to 30 people who would be trained to work for other distribution centers and companies within the Roanoke Valley. He added that the Pepsi program to hire ten additional employees is estimated to generate \$350,000.00 in additional tax revenue for the City of Roanoke, and the other 20 to 30 persons, if employed in positions of equivalent value, could add an additional \$700,000.00 of tax revenue. He stated that there is a need for this type of training and the Pepsi Bottling Group encourages the City of Roanoke to support the program; currently Pepsi draws employment from the Counties of Botetourt, Bedford and Roanoke, but the Forklift Training and Warehouse Program is targeted directly at downtown Roanoke; therefore, he requested that funding for TAP's Forklift Training and Warehouse Program be reconsidered by the City of Roanoke.

Owen Scholtz, Director of Planning, Total Action Against Poverty, spoke with regard to TAP's Forklift Training and Warehouse Program. He stated that TAP was approached by Pepsi Bottling Group to enter into the program in order to increase their recruitment and retention of low income individuals, specifically minorities and women. He further stated that representatives of the Pepsi Group found that most of the individuals who came to them looking for employment had an undeveloped work ethic and insufficient math and reading skills which prevented them from securing jobs; a short term evaluation demonstrated that there are at least two other major firms that have the same needs and will offer the same kind of benefits and employment; therefore, TAP developed a comprehensive training program over a short period of time to allow these persons to access jobs in the range of \$10.00 to \$13.50 per hour, and could lead to upward mobility within the firms. He asked that the City of Roanoke reconsider its position to deny CDBG funding for the Forklift and Warehouse Training Program for the following reasons: the program is consistent with CDBG goals to serve the low-income population, the program is consistent with the constituency that the City wishes to serve, the program works directly with businesses to meet their needs, the program offers earning power with growth potential to low-income individuals, and the program addresses a business need and the needs of the low income constituency to improve their lives and to rise above poverty. He explained that the participating businesses cannot afford to embark on this kind of training program which is an expense that should be part of a public responsibility, and

the program is an effective use of public funds involving an on-going employment initiative which will achieve substantial independence after two years. He advised that the Forklift and Warehouse Training Program is the only employment and training program offered within all of the CDBG applications this year; and the curtailment or elimination of other Federal, State and local funding for employment and training programs across the nation has made it even more difficult to offer training programs in the face of an increasing need.

There being no further speakers, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

BUDGET-GRANTS: The Mayor advised that the second public hearing pertained to the City's proposed 2006-2007 HUD funding budget, in the amount of \$3,730,478.00.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on April 19, 2006.

(See publisher's affidavit on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to speak in connection with the public hearing. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

At 7:35 p. m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess until immediately following the public hearing on the City's real property tax levies and a decrease in the real property tax rate for fiscal year 2006-2007.

At 7:36 p.m., the Mayor called a meeting of the Council to order to conduct a public hearing on the City's real property tax levies and a decrease in the real property tax rate for fiscal year 2006-2007. The meeting was held in the City Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris presiding.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum. (Council Member Lea was absent.)

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

BUDGET-TAXES: The Mayor advised that the purpose of the meeting was to hold a public hearing on the City's real property tax levies and a decrease in the real property tax rate. He further advised that the City Manager's proposed budget includes a decrease in the real property tax rate from \$1.21 to \$1.19 per \$100.00 of assessed value; and based on the proposed real property tax rate and a change in other revenues, the total budget of the City of Roanoke will exceed last year's budget by 7.1 per cent.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on April 18, 2006.

(See publisher's affidavit on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to speak in connection with the public hearing. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There being no questions or comments by Council Members, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned.

Council having previously recessed the 7:00 p.m. meeting, with regard to a proposed increase in the cigarette tax, at 7:40 p.m., the Mayor called the meeting back to order. The meeting was held in the City Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor Harris presiding.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum. (Council Member Lea was absent.)

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

BUDGET-TAXES: The Mayor advised that the last public hearing was with reference to a proposed increase in the cigarette tax from \$.0135 per cigarette to \$.027 per cigarette, beginning July 1, 2006, which will generate an additional \$1,520,000.00 in revenue to the City.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on April 18, 2006.

(See publisher's affidavit on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who would like to speak in connection with the public hearing. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There were no questions or comments by the Members of Council.

The Mayor advised that Council will convene in budget study sessions on Thursday, May 4 and on Friday, May 5, 2006, if necessary, at 8:30 a. m., in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with the goal of sending the budget back to the City Manager to make any necessary adjustments and to prepare the appropriate measures for adoption by Council on Thursday, May 11, 2006, at 2:00 p. m., in the City Council Chamber.

There being no further business, at 7:45 p. m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting adjourned.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:
Mary F. Parker
City Clerk

C. Nelson Harris
Mayor
